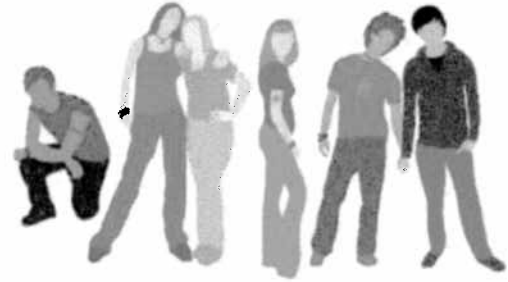


Addiction Prevention: Outcomes Support a Healthy Future



Prevention Carries the Message

Communities across Illinois are developing prevention strategies and innovative approaches to educate youth, their parents, businesses, and local officials about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The key to successful prevention strategies is flexibility. **One size does not fit all. A local needs assessment drives the most successful community outcomes.**

Underage drinking, binge drinking, use of tobacco products, use of illegal drugs, and other negative life choices can result in traffic crashes, violent crimes, soaring medical costs, and other repercussions. According to 2011 data provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services, more than 1100 **evidence based** prevention programs in Illinois provide the “front line” of defense in fighting these consequences. The impacts of these programs reach far and wide:

- More than 140,400 people have been served by population based strategies.
- More than 90,000 youth have been served by individual strategies.
- **88% somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone their age smoking.**
- **83% somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone using marijuana.**
- **86% somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone their age drinking 1 or 2 drinks a day.**

A Snapshot of Illinois Youth

Every two years, the Illinois Youth Survey provides current data on substance usage rates of youth in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. “Gateway” drug findings from the most recent survey were:

- **Alcohol is the number one drug for Illinois youth, with usage rates higher than the national average.**
- **Marijuana use is higher than the national average.**
- Cigarette use is similar to the national average.
- Students using drugs or alcohol are up to **five times more likely to drop out of school**.
- Nearly 10,000 Illinois residents die annually from accidental injuries, and **40% of those are related to use of alcohol!**

The Impact of Reducing Addiction Prevention Funding

- **Effective school-based programs can save an average of \$18 per \$1 spent.** This equates to a net savings of \$3,757 per youth served. **State and local governments would save \$1.3 billion** within 2 years. (SAMHSA, 2002)
- Environmental prevention strategies such as driving curfews for youth, 21 legal drinking age, alcohol server training and enforcement of serving intoxicated patrons laws **save taxpayers anywhere from \$2.60 to \$84 per dollar spent on the strategy.** (SAMHSA, 2002)
- Savings from youth development through integrated family or community and school programs range up to **\$35 per dollar spent on proven effective programs.** (SAMHSA, 2002)
- **The cost savings from helping just one high-risk youth graduate from high-school, avoid heavy drug use and not engage in crime would range between \$1.7 and \$2.3 million dollars.** (Cohen, M., 1998)

ILLINOIS CANNOT AFFORD TO REDUCE ADDICTION PREVENTION FUNDING!



Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association
www.iadda.org



Addiction Treatment is Effective, Changes Lives and Saves Dollars

Addiction Treatment is Effective

Research substantiates **positive treatment outcomes** that encourage **stable families and communities, save taxpayer dollars, and save lives**. A 2005 study of more than 800 Illinois adults and a 2009 study of more than 700 adolescent clients in Illinois found that 12 months post treatment:

- **adults reported a 58% decrease and adolescents reported a 42% decrease** in drug and alcohol use,
- **adults reported a 56% decrease** in the number of days experiencing emotional or behavioral problems,
- **adolescents reported a 36% decrease** in the number of days experiencing emotional or behavioral problems,
- **adults reported a 58% decrease** in the number of days homeless,
- **adults reported a 61% decrease** in violent and illegal behavior,
- **adolescents reported a 46% decrease** in violent and illegal behavior, and
- **adults reported a 69% INCREASE** in vocational engagement. (*Chestnut Health Systems, 2005 and 2009*)

Addiction Treatment Decreases Crime

- A 2006 study of individuals completing Illinois' Sheridan Reentry Prison program, which couples in-prison treatment with post-release community treatment, were **21% less likely to be re-arrested for a new crime** and **44% less likely to return to prison** than those in the comparison group. (*Olson et al, 2006*)
- A seminal, congressionally mandated treatment effectiveness study found that, comparing 1 year prior treatment to 1 year post treatment, the percentage of clients engaged in **drug selling decreased 78%**, **shoplifting decreased 81%**, and criminal **arrests decreased 65%**. (*SAMHSA, 1997*)
- For every 1,000 people who receive supervised treatment in the community as an alternative to prison, the state saves an estimated \$20 million. **On average, a year of supervised community-based drug treatment costs less than \$5,000. A year of prison costs approximately \$25,000.** (*TASC, 2007; IDOC, 2009*)

Addiction Treatment Saves Dollars

Treatment supports significant cost savings in other systems. Appropriate treatment results in:

- **Fewer emergency room visits and hospital stays,**
- **Fewer absences from school or employment,**
- **Reduced impacts in the criminal justice system,**
- **More intact families; and, fewer children in foster care.**

Illinois annually spends nearly \$3 billion, **12% of the state budget**, dealing with consequences of untreated addiction while **less than one-tenth of 1%** of all state spending is dedicated to addiction healthcare services. **Every \$1 cut from addiction treatment will cost Illinois \$7 in corrections, child welfare, public health, healthcare and family services, education, and other areas.** (*RWJF, 2005*)

Funding a comprehensive addiction treatment system saves lives AND saves dollars!

